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<REVIEW 1>

<H1>Barry D. Solomon and Kirby E. Calvert (eds.) 2017: *Handbook on the Geographies of Energy*. Cheltenham/Northampton: Edward Elgar</H1>

The spatiality of energy systems and the multiple ways of conceptualizing them are the focus of energy geography. Within this rapidly expanding field of scholarship, the *Handbook on the Geographies of Energy* in Edward Elgar's Handbook series represents an important collection of 37 chapters which have been carefully compiled by Barry D. Solomon and Kirby E. Calvert. The editors argue that there is a general trend among geographers to identify and bind their work topically. Fields of topical study in geography can be characterized as the academic borderlands between different sub-disciplines in geographical thinking (p. 3), and one such area is the study of energy geography.

The Handbook fruitfully attempts to explore the academic borderland of energy geography with its wide range of issues related to the materiality, distribution and appropriation of energy resources in different parts of the world. Given the wide spectrum of issues and approaches, the Handbook is divided into six parts focusing on each of these borderlands, namely: fuels, energies, energy consumption, landscapes of energy production, distribution and use, energy at the nexus, and conceptual approaches in energy geographies.

As one might expect, the Handbook does not follow a single argument. The editors characterize the volume as not fully comprehensive, but as 'a handy resource that is intended to serve as a guide through the complexities and nuances of the various geographical issues as they are brought to bear on energy issues' (p. xxiii). They also admit that there are some missing pieces to the puzzle of energy geographies. This is partly because the book is mostly written from a North American or British perspective: 22 of the authors are based in the United States, 15 in the UK, 10 in Canada and only 13 in (predominantly European) countries from the rest of the world. Nevertheless, recognizing that 'geography matters' in energy research and not only in the global North, the editors have included some valuable chapters related to the situation in India, Africa and Brazil, for example.

It is difficult to summarize the main arguments of the Handbook due to the fact that each of the chapters follows its own line of reasoning within the energy geography borderlands. However, it is possible to take a closer look at each of the different sections.

The thematic focus of Part I is on fuels such as oil, coal, natural gas, nuclear fuels and biofuels. Part II, on the other hand, focuses more on kinetic flows of energy and the capacity to do work (especially with regard to renewables like solar, wind and hydro power). Most of

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the chapters in these two sections are purely or predominantly descriptive. Chapter 10, for example, by Martin J. Pasqualetti and Barry D. Solomon discusses the geographical dimensions of wind power without conceptualizing this important issue of energy geography from the emergent perspectives of cultural or social geography (e.g. the politicization of conflicts, the role of populist discourses or the socio-materiality of wind power). Other contributors, however, do manage to solve the problem of presenting a field of research to an audience of graduate students while at the same time having a clear conceptual focus, such as Philippe Le Billon and Gavin Bridge, who use the perspective of politics in the Anthropocene (chapter 4) to frame their discussion of the history and future of oil.

In Part IV the various authors explore different 'landscapes' of energy production, distribution and use. This section is the most erratic one. Seven of the eleven chapters have a clear geographical focus (on Europe, Russia, North America, Brazil, sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria and India), but without following the same chapter structure. It also remains unclear why some of these contributors focus on nation-states and others on whole continents (or parts of them), while important parts of the world of energy geographies (e.g. China, the Arctic or the Middle East) are not considered at all. The other four chapters in this section refer to very different aspects such as global warming, the co-designing of landscapes, urban energy transitions, and global energy transitions. The way the editors selected the chapters for this section is not really very comprehensible at all.

Parts V and VI of the Handbook are particularly interesting. They explore the nexus between energy and other policy issues as well as the 'creative conceptual and methodological frameworks that are sharpening the leading edge of energy geographies' (p. 6). To do so, most of the chapters in these two sections follow a clear conceptual rationale and provide a critical perspective on specific issues of energy geography. Some perfect examples of this are the chapters on critical nexus thinking (Hayley Leck *et al.*, chapter 29), energy poverty and vulnerability (Neil Simcock and Saska Petrova, chapter 30), the geographies of energy justice (Karen Bickerstaff, chapter 31) and critical energy geographies (Conor Harrison and E. Jeffrey Popke, chapter 35).

These chapters—amongst others—demonstrate the fruitful endeavour of discussing issues of energy geography from a conceptual perspective. Therefore, it is a pity that the editors missed the opportunity to summarize the whole endeavour of the Handbook. As a consequence, it is up to the individual reader to find their way through the diversity of individual chapters.

This edited collection represents a real treasure trove for students and (especially early) researchers in the field of energy geography. Unfortunately, however, it lacks a clear geographical rationale. The structure of the book follows the logic of the energy system (fuels, energies, consumption, etc.) but it barely engages with any geographical categories such as territories or different landscapes or scales. Hence the true value of the Handbook lies above all in many of its individual chapters.

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